



LEON COUNTY
BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Alternative Gift Giving

Presentation by Debbie Gibson

Sustainable Communities Summit 10.31.2012



**WHAT ISN'T MADE OF PLASTIC, WON'T
END UP IN THE LANDFILL, WON'T BREAK
YOUR BUDGET, AND WILL BRING YOU
LOTS OF JOY?**

An alternative gift!

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The Alternative Christmas Market @ John Wesley Church

---"Honoring those who have enough by sharing with those in need."

The Market in 2012 will take place Saturday, December 1, from 9 to 4 and Sunday, December 2 from 1 to 4. We hope to see you there!

With over 30 local, national, and international agencies participating, you are sure to find something for everyone on your list!

Ministries that serve the homeless, the hungry, the imprisoned, the poor, and those who cry out for justice will set up booths in John Wesley's Fellowship Hall interpreting their ministries for the larger community. The services they provide to our neighbors in need will be represented on a price list to help shoppers match a gift with that someone special on their Christmas list. For example:

*Uncle John is the go-to guy in the family when anyone needs a handyman.

--Why not honor him with a gift of a hammer through Habitat for Humanity or lumber for a raised bed through Damayan's Garden Project?

*Grandma Rosa has always sung in the choir and been interested in the missions work of the church.

--Why not honor her with a gift of song books through Kairos Prison Ministry or a tree planted to sequester carbon through the Community Carbon Fund of Sustainable Tallahassee?

*Cousin Linda is a teacher at a rural elementary school working with low income students.

--You can honor her with a gift of a school supplies through Child Advocates II of Tallahassee or training for a reading tutor through the Literacy Volunteers of Leon County.

*Brother Marcus is a nurse at the local hospital working in the neuro special care unit.

--Honor him with a gift of five flu vaccines through the Neighborhood Health Services or a mosquito net to prevent malaria through United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Gifts may be chosen from any of the agencies participating and recorded on a shopping list. Beautiful, fair-traded handicrafts and tangible gifts supporting the agencies in the market are also available for purchase in our card and craft shop and the proceeds contribute to supporting the agencies' missions. When you're finished shopping, you write one check and then proceed to the calligraphy station to have your gift cards hand-lettered, ready for you to put under your tree or mail to the recipient. It couldn't be easier or more in keeping with the season! It all happens in the John Wesley Church Fellowship Hall at 1689 Old St. Augustine Rd., Tallahassee, FL.

Purpose of the Alternative Christmas Market

The Alternative Christmas Market at John Wesley Church exists for the purpose of:

- (1) providing an alternative to the excessive commercialization of the holiday shopping experience;
- (2) enhancing the public's awareness of ministries that serve the poor in our local community, and the world-at-large; and
- (3) promoting Christmas as the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



How Does It Work?



Tired of the over-commercialization of Christmas? Looking for a way to put more meaning into your family's celebration of the season?

Join us for the Alternative Christmas Market at John Wesley Church where you can "honor Christ's birth by continuing His work". Over 30 non-profit ministries provide shopping opportunities to honor the recipients on your list by enabling the ministry to reach out in their name to our less fortunate neighbors—locally, nationally, and abroad.

A card detailing your gift is completed in our calligraphy shop for you to take home and put under the tree or mail.

In addition to "Gifts for Sharing God's Blessings", a third-world fair-trade craft shop carries a variety of beautiful handcrafted gift items for sale. Many of the Market's ministries also have tangible gifts in the shop, the sale of which helps further their work.

If you can't attend the market in person, everything you need to purchase your donation gifts is on this website. Print the shopping list, using the link on the left and the open document button at the bottom of the page. After learning about the agencies, complete the shopping list in full using information from the agency price lists. Total your purchases and write a check to ACMJWC. Mail the list and the check to John Wesley Church, 1689 Old St. Augustine Rd., Tallahassee, FL, 32301. Don't forget to make yourself a copy of your shopping list as your purchases are tax deductible. We will be accepting shopping orders from Nov. 26 until December 14. Use the "Contact Us" information on this site if you have questions. You'll be contacted by phone when the gift cards are available for pick up at the church office.

With all of this to choose from, there is sure to be something for everyone on your list and it's all in one place--**1689 Old St. Augustine Rd.** (just west of Blair Stone Rd.), Tallahassee.

List of Agencies Participating in the Market 2012



Organization	Web Address	Description
Alzheimer's Project of Tallahassee	www.alzheimersproject.org/	Trains and coordinates volunteers who provide relief to the caregivers of person the Tallahassee community who suffer from Alzheimer's disease.
America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend	www.fightinghunger.org/	Warehouses and distributes surplus food to the needy through more than 250 non-profit agencies in 14 counties of Northwest Florida.
Big Bend Cares	www.bigbendcares.org/index.shtml	Big Bend Cares is a non-profit organization which provides education and comprehensive support to people who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Bend Cares serves the eight counties of the Big Bend.
Big Bend Habitat for Humanity	http://www.habitally.org/	A nonprofit housing ministries that provides decent, affordable homes for low-income Floridians. Habitat's 59 affiliates in Florida are separately incorporated organizations that build or renovate homes through partnership with the community and sell the homes at no-profit, financed with a 0% interest mortgage.
Big Bend Hospice, Inc.	www.bigbendhospice.org/	Assists terminally ill patients and their families in 8 counties of Florida's Big Bend. They face end of life decisions through palliative care, music therapy, grief counseling, and more.
Big Bend Homeless Coalition	www.bigbendhc.org/	Coordinates resources needed to help individuals and families move from homelessness to independent living while providing transitional housing at the H Community.
Child Advocates II	www.guardianadlitembigbend.org/	Established in 1986, Child Advocates II, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, raises money to help children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected in Florida. Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson and Liberty Counties.
Church World Service	www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer	Works with partners to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. Together we reach out to neighbors in need near and far--not with a hand out, but a hand up.
Community Carbon Fund of Sustainable Tallahassee	http://sustainabletallahassee.org/ccf	Contributions to the Community Carbon Fund are used to help local nonprofit organizations lower energy use and reduce GHG emissions by improving and retrofitting their facilities. Several initiatives undertaken have funded or facilitated energy efficiency projects at organizations that serve the poor.

Agency Price Lists for 2012



(To view an agency's price list, click on the name.)

- [Alzheimer's Project of Tallahassee](#)
- [America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend](#)
- [Big Bend CARES](#)
- [Big Bend Homeless Coalition](#)
- [Big Bend Hospice](#)
- [Brehon Institute for Family Services](#)
- [Child Advocates II of Tallahassee](#)
- [Church World Service](#)
- [Community Carbon Fund](#)
- [Damayan, "The Garden Project"](#)
- [ECHO Outreach Ministries](#)
- [Elder Care Services](#)
- [Florida United Methodist Children's Home](#)
- [Grace Mission Episcopal Church](#)
- [Heifer Project International](#)
- [Hope Street Missions Uganda](#)
- [Kairos Prison Ministry](#)
- [Kindred Spirits Charitable Trust](#)
- [Literacy Volunteers of Leon County](#)
- [Lutheran Social Services of North Florida](#)
- [Mothers In Crisis](#)
- [Neighborhood Health Services](#)
- [Oasis Center for Women and Girls](#)
- [Porch de Salomon](#)
- [Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of North Florida](#)
- [St. Frances Wildlife Association](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [The Tallahassee-Leon Shelter](#)
- [TREATS, Inc.](#)
- [The United Methodist Committee on Relief](#)
- [Veterans' Village](#)

"Gifts for Sharing God's Blessings"

Community Carbon Fund
(Organization Code: CCF)
PRICE LIST

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Item Code</u>	<u>Item Description</u>
\$3	CFL	One CFL bulb to replace an incandescent and reduce energy consumption by 75%
\$8	LED	One motion sensor outdoor LED light to replace regular flood light and reduce energy consumption by 90%
\$14	CARB	Offset one ton of carbon through energy retrofits for local non-profits serving disadvantaged neighbors
\$20	TREE	Plant a native tree to increase species diversity and sequester a metric tonne of CO2 over its lifetime
\$25	<u>ODGS</u>	A share of an on-demand gas water heater to replace an inefficient electric water heater (30% more efficient)
\$35	SOLR	One share of a Leon County Solar on Schools project
\$40	FRTR	Plant a fruit tree in a community garden providing food and sequestering a metric tonne of CO2 in its lifetime
\$50	BKPK	Materials for one energy backpack for check out from the Leon County Public Library to help a family do a home energy check
\$75	<u>OFST</u>	Offset the carbon produced by an average Tallahassee family's electricity usage for one year
*	DONA	Donation in any amount

The Alternative Christmas Market

A ministry of John Wesley Church – a United Methodist congregation

MY ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET SHOPPING LIST

OK to use more than one if needed

Family and friends I want to remember this Christmas	Org. Code	Item Code	Gift Item	how many	Total \$ Amount
Debbie Mom	SFW	SNAC	Crickets to feed baby birds that fell from nest	30	\$30
Dad	HPI	Goat	share of a goat	1	\$10
Aunt Ann & Uncle Clyde	MHAM	Food	Feed 6 children for a month in Haiti	1	\$20
Grandmother	ECS	RSVP	One-hour sponsorship of a senior companion	1	\$17
Lynda	LYLC	READ	Reader for a basic reading student	1	\$7
Gordon	BBC	FOOD	1 bag of non-perishables	1	\$4
Renee	REFH	GAS	Gas card for a woman to travel to safety	1	\$25
Amy	CATH	Medi	Prescription drugs for client needing medication	1	\$20
Margie	BREH	ONES	"onesies" for a newborn	1	\$5
Mama Wendy	DAMA	HOSE	Garden hose	1	\$8
Debbie Ben & Linetta	LUTH	CDAY	1 day of childcare for a homeless parent	1	\$15
Aunt Debbie Jennifer & Brinnen	TTCN	FOOD	Feed a child for a month in Nicaragua	1	\$10
Debbie Brant & Andra	BBH	BEAR	Caring Tree program Remember Bear	1	\$10
Michael & Betsy	KAIR	SONG	Songbook for use with prisoners	1	\$6
Emory & Ann	KIND	BOOK	Paperback book for a death row prisoner	1	\$10
co-workers (10)	TLP	Stdy	Self study educational materials/library in Laos	10	\$80
Total for My Alternative Gifts (sum of the above)					\$277
Card & Craft Shop Purchases					—
25 cards needed					Grand Total ... \$277

Payment by: ☐ Cash ☒ Check, Check# 7462

Please provide info below, *required if paying by check* - (Make check payable to **John Wesley Church**)

Customer Name Debbie Gibson ID# ?

Address 1730 Riverbirch City Tallahassee State FL Zipcode 32308


Phone 656-3659 Church or Place of Worship 12th Presbyterian

If this is your **first visit**, from what source did you learn about *The Alternative Christmas Market*?

from the website

Since 1987
The Alternative Christmas Market
A ministry of John Wesley Church . . .
a United Methodist congregation.
1689 Old Saint Augustine Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301-4899
Phone (850) 877-1738
www.alternativemarket.org

*
*In
this
season
with its
promise of
wonder, joy &
a world at peace*

 [Open Document](#)

*As a special gift to you,
a gift of
plants and seeds for
an herb garden
has been given in your name through*

Darmayan

by

Aunt Debbie

to help a family in need.

History of JWC's Alternative Christmas Market



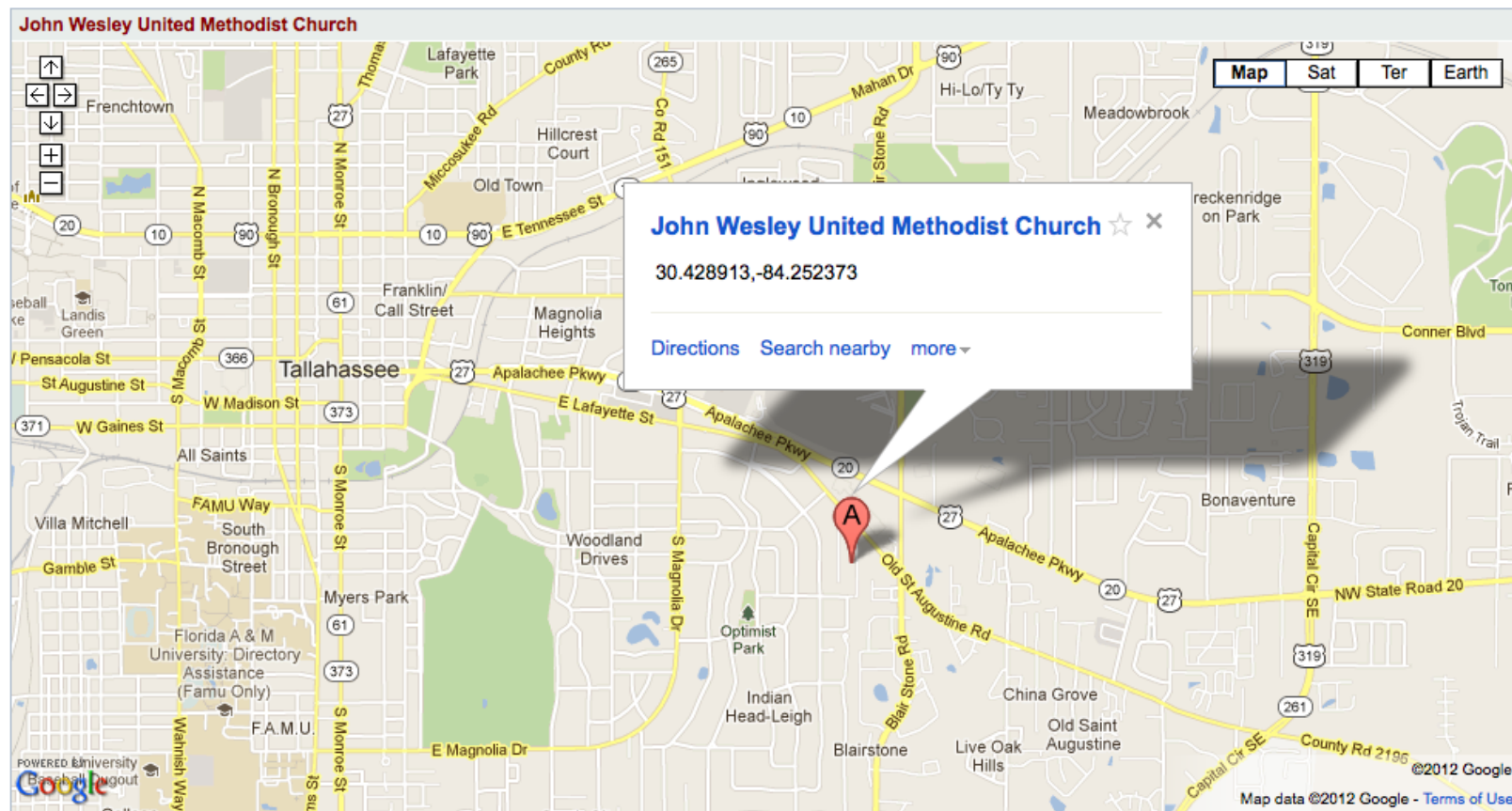
In December 1986, John Davis spearheaded a Christmas event that began a longtime tradition at John Wesley Church and soon became community-wide. The year 2012 will mark the twenty-sixth year John Wesley has facilitated alternative gift-giving. The Alternative Christmas Market is a way of honoring friends and family by donating in their name to various charities. Church and community members have the opportunity to learn about the respective goods and services offered by each charity to the needy both locally and worldwide. Shoppers choose a gift and receive a custom, hand-calligraphied card describing the gift, such as a meal for a hungry child. The cards are then sent to friends and family members in lieu of a more commercial gift.

The initial concept of buying gifts to share God's blessings came from Heifer Project International (HPI), an agency in which John was actively involved as a local representative. HPI furnishes indigenous animals and training to impoverished farmers to enable families and, subsequently, entire villages to sustain themselves. The first Alternative Christmas Market featured Heifer Project and Habitat for Humanity displays. Each display pictured a different animal, showing how the animal was useful, or illustrated a project that Habitat was developing, either in Tallahassee or elsewhere in the world. Sunday School classes chose the Heifer Project animal they wanted to depict. One showed dairy cows, another one chose baby chicks and another, a swarm of honey bees. Preparing for the market was educational and, shopping with the idea you were truly celebrating Christ's birth, made it a favorite church tradition. As the years went by, many more charitable agencies participated --limited only by space in the Fellowship Hall. Last year the market sponsored over forty non-profit groups, including those that sell fair-trade gift items.

Before John's "retirement" as director of the market, he helped seven other churches set up markets of their own, thereby adding to the number of churches who honor Christ's birth by serving the "least of these". Cindy Cosper, a long time leader in missions, took over as director in 2006 and for the last two years has been joined by co-Director, Debbie Gibson. Thus far, the total donations from shoppers has amounted to approximately \$875,000, 100% of which is given to the agencies. In addition, numerous volunteer hours have been logged in by, not only church members and friends, but also agency staff and volunteers. The enormous number of people who have been blessed by the market is gratifying indeed...the disadvantaged, the shoppers, the honored gift recipients, and the volunteers.

Where Do You Find Us?

Map to the Alternative Christmas Market at John Wesley Church



John Wesley United Methodist Church
1689 Old St. Augustine Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 877-1738
<http://johnwesleyumc.com>



The Alternative Christmas Market

@ John Wesley Church

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